# BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

AMENDED ESTIMATE to be substituted for that for the Belfast Academical Institution, No. 10, Class IV. of the Estimates for Miscellaneous Services.

*PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S COMMAND.*

AN ESTIMATE of the Sum required to be Voted for the Year, ending 31 March 1848, in aid of the Expenditure of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and for Salaries of Theological Professors at *Belfast.*

Three Thousand Nine Hundred Pounds.

1. *Belfast Academical Institution.*

| | £. | £. |
|---|---|---|
| Professor of Logic and Belles Lettres | 150 | |
| " Moral Philosophy | 150 | |
| " Natural Philosophy | 150 | |
| " Mathematics | 150 | |
| " Greek and Latin | 150 | |
| " Hebrew | 150 | |
| " Anatomy | 150 | |
| " Chemistry | 50 | |
| " Materia Medica | 50 | |
| " Botany | 50 | |
| " Practice of Physic | 50 | |
| " Surgery | 50 | |
| " Midwifery | 50 | |
| " Divinity, Non-subscribing Association | 150 | |
| " Ditto ditto | 150 | |
| Assistant Secretary | 100 | |
| Rent, Insurance, Servants, Repairs, Furniture, &c. | 150 | |
| | | 1,900 |

2. *Theological Professors at Belfast.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Professor of Divinity | 250 | |
| " Ditto* | 250 | |
| " Ecclesiastical History | 250 | |
| " Biblical Criticism | 250 | |
| " Greek | 250 | |
| " Hebrew | 250 | |
| " Christian Ethics | 250 | |
| " Sacred Rhetoric | 250 | |
| | | 2,000 |
| Total | £. | 3,900 |

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 17 May 1847.

J. PARKER.

The ground of the alteration in the Estimate submitted for this Service, is shown in the following letter from the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

* On a vacancy in the Professorships of Divinity taking place, the second grant of 250 *l.* is to cease.

Sir,



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Sir, Dublin Castle, 30 November 1846.

The period having arrived for the preparation of the Irish Miscellaneous Estimates, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, that some months ago a deputation from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland waited upon several members of Her Majesty's Government, respecting a grant of money to erect a college, besides an increase to the grant already voted to defray the salaries of theological professors at Belfast, connected with the General Assembly; and shortly after my arrival in Ireland, the deputation (according to a suggestion made to them in London) brought to me a lengthened statement of their case, to which I have now given the fullest consideration.

It appears that the Belfast Academical Institution received, in the year 1814, a Parliamentary Grant, to defray the salaries of professors of classics, science, and philosophy, in order to provide a collegiate education, particularly for students intended for the Presbyterian ministry in Ireland. There were at that time two separate Presbyterian sects, called the Synod of Ulster and the Seceding Synod, each of which had a divinity professor, for the instruction of the students of their respective bodies, and salaries to these professors were also granted, as well as to the other professors in the institution. These two Synods having united in 1841, under the name of the General Assembly, the two divinity classes also united under the joint charge of both professors, whose salaries are to continue during their incumbency; but on a vacancy taking place, only one divinity professor is to be provided for by Parliament, agreeably to the Treasury letter of 15 December 1843.

In the year 1838 Parliament granted a salary to a professor of ecclesiastical history, and in 1844, to a professor of biblical criticism; and the salaries of these two professors, as well as of the two divinity professors, were, in the Estimates of the current year, raised to 250*l.* each.

The demands made by the deputation of the General Assembly, were twofold; first, they asked for the assistance of the State to erect a college of their own in Belfast, and secondly, they applied for the establishment of four additional chairs, to complete the system of theological instruction for their students in divinity, the principle of affording which had repeatedly received the sanction of Parliament.

Upon the first point I informed them that Parliament, having already sanctioned the foundation in Belfast of one of the Queen's Colleges, in which a most liberal course of secular education would be provided for the youth of the Presbyterian, as well as of other persuasions, I could not recommend that a grant should be made for building a Presbyterian College.

But with regard to the second point, I am prepared to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury the propriety of proposing to Parliament an increased estimate to provide for a Professor of Greek, a Professor of Hebrew, a Professor of Christian Ethics, and a Professor of Sacred Rhetoric, at salaries of 250*l.* each (throwing, however, upon the General Assembly itself the cost of erecting any buildings which may be necessary as class-rooms for their divinity students), whereby the same opportunity of a complete course of theological instruction will be given to the divinity students of the Presbyterians of Ireland which is afforded to Roman-catholics at Maynooth, and to the members of the Church of England in Trinity College, Dublin.

Under these circumstances, I trust that their Lordships will be pleased to approve of an Estimate for these four new professorships, and as the General Assembly have requested that their four existing professorships should not in future be included in the Estimate of the Belfast Academical Institution (from which they have wholly withdrawn), I propose that a separate Estimate be prepared for the eight theological professorships already named.

I have further to state, that a body of Presbyterians in Ireland, differing in doctrine from the General Assembly, and called the Non-subscribing Association, have had for some years two professors of divinity who are accommodated with class-rooms in the Belfast Academical Institution, but no salary has been yet voted towards their support. As the Presbyterian ministers of that denomination, however, share in the grant for Non-Conforming Ministers in Ireland, in the same way as the ministers of the General Assembly, and a deputation from this body having brought the subject very fully under my notice, I consider that with reference to all the circumstances of the case, salaries of 150*l.* each should be placed on the Estimate of the Belfast Academical Institution, for the two professors alluded to; one of them, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, was remunerated for his professorial services by an addition on the Estimates of the current year, of 100*l.* to his salary, as agent for payment of the Royal bounty to the ministers of his denomination, but I have intimated to him the discontinuance of that addition, should the proposed salaries of 150*l.* each be authorised by Parliament.

I have every reason to believe that these arrangements will be perfectly satisfactory to the respectable and numerous body of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland whom they principally affect; and I trust that their Lordships will agree with me, that the importance of the objects which they are calculated to promote, quite outweighs the comparatively small increase of expense which they will occasion.

John Parker, Esq. (signed) *H. Labouchere.*

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AMENDED ESTIMATE to be substituted for that for the BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, No. 10, Class IV. of the ESTIMATES for MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

[*Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.*]

*Ordered, by* The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
17 *May* 1847.

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*Under* 1 *oz.*

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